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Moscow Hints Shift on Missile Talks

Reuters

MOSCOW, Feb. 15—Pravda, the Kremlin's leading newspaper, hinted today that the Soviet government may be ready for talks with the United States on an anti-missile moratorium.

The hint was vague but it prompted speculation in diplomatic circles that Soviet thinking on the subject may have suddenly changed.

Premier Kosygin, at a London press conference last Thursday, appeared to suggest that Russia had little interest in talks on an anti-missile

moratorium as proposed by President Johnson.

However, today Pravda quoted Kosygin as having said in London "that the Soviet government is ready to discuss the question of the prevention of a further arms race both in the field of offensive and defensive weapons."

Western diplomats were quick to note that Pravda's version put the Premier on record for something he did not actually say, according to the official Soviet transcript of his press conference statement.

They said Pravda's editing

could be highly significant, but cautioned it was too early to form definite judgments on the basis of a single newspaper report.

The diplomats noted nevertheless that Pravda commentaries on matters of high policy such as this are always carefully checked and their publication often means the Kremlin has a message which it wants to transmit to the outside world.

President Johnson proposed an anti-missile moratorium last month, and followed it up with a personal letter to Kosygin.

Thin, Thick Anti-Missile Plans Listed

These are the cities which would be protected under the Nike X anti-missile defense plans recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The column labeled Posture A is a so-called "thin" defense which Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara estimates would cost \$9.9 billion to build and \$380 million a year to operate. It would protect 25 cities.

An additional 25 cities would be covered under Posture B, shown at right. This "thicker" 50-cities defense would cost \$19.4 billion to build and \$720 million a year to maintain.

McNamara said once such defenses were started in these cities, other cities would demand similar protection. The result, he estimates, would be an anti-missile system costing \$40 billion.

Posture A would consist of short-range Sprint anti-ballistic missiles only, while Posture B would be a combination of those and long-range Spartan ABMs.

Posture A
New York
Los Angeles
Chicago
Philadelphia
Detroit
San Francisco
Washington
Boston
Cleveland
St. Louis
Baltimore
Houston
Pittsburgh
Minneapolis
Miami
Denver
Atlanta
Seattle
New Orleans
Buffalo
Portland, Ore.
Albany, N.Y.
El Paso, Tex.
Charleston, S.C.
Honolulu

Posture B
Patterson, N.J.
San Jose, Calif.
Dallas
Milwaukee
Kansas City
Cincinnati
San Diego
San Antonio
Indianapolis
Columbus, Ohio
Memphis
Louisville
Providence, R.I.
Norfolk
Rochester, N.Y.
Springfield, Mass.
Dayton, Ohio
San Bern'do, Calif.
Toledo, Ohio
Bridgeport, Conn.
New Haven, Conn.
Flint, Mich.
Allentown, Pa.
Takoma, Wash.
Trenton, N.J.